

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Official Action objected to the drawings, citing features of claim 7 not being shown therein. Responsively, claim 7 has been canceled.

The Official Action objected to claim 6.

The Official Action rejected claims 6-7 under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The Official Action rejected claim 7 under §112, first paragraph.

Claims 6-7 have been canceled.

Claim 3 was rejected for having improper antecedent basis. Responsively, claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 2.

These amendments are believed to address all of the formal matters raised by the Official Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of all the formal objections/rejections is solicited.

Claims 1, 2 and 6 stand rejected as anticipated by PACKARD et al. 3,042,314.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected as anticipated by HINZ 3,324,903.

Claim 1 and 5 stand rejected as anticipated by GILMOUR 2,788,244.

Claim 4 stands rejected as obvious over PACKARD et al. in view of MACDONALD 3,381,845.

Claim 1 has been amended to include recitations previously found in claim 6 and so as to patentably recite the present invention. Further, the newly added claims are believed to patentably recite the present invention.

The recitations added to claim 1 are supported by original claim 6 and that disclosed in specification page 6, lines 4-5 "the depth of the channels 22 is different, according to the angular position of the conduit" and by that disclosed on page 5, lines 11-12 "the angular position in which the head 16 of the aspiration conduit 15 has been installed on the chamber".

The Official Action indicates that PACKARD discloses an adjustable dispenser comprising a body 10, an aspiration conduit 20, a container 18, a head 50, a radially-directed series of channels 42 and an elastic sealing means 21.

Although both devices vary and regulate flow capacity of a water head, the devices are not structurally the same and PACKARD does not disclose that recited by the independent claims.

A first main difference is the position and number of series of channels. In PACKARD there are two series of radially-directed channels, each series positioned at a different height along a rotating tube placed inside the aspiration conduit. By turning this concentric tube, with respect to the aspiration conduit, it is possible to vary the flow capacity. The water

flow goes up along the aspiration conduit, then passes inside the rotating and concentric tube through the first series of channels, so as to go up as far as the second series of channels through which the water arrives at the expansion chamber.

In contrast, the present invention provides only a single series of radially-directed channels located right on the top surface of the head of the aspiration conduit. They are rotatable with the conduit, so that the whole aspiration conduit has to be rotated in order to vary the flow capacity. The angular position of the aspiration conduit, and therefore the channels, has to be fixed before assembling the dispenser and it cannot be varied during the usage of the dispenser itself. The liquid goes up through the aspiration conduit and arrives at the expansion chamber through a selected one of these channels.

Thus, PACKARD neither shows the radially-directed series of channels on an upper part of the head of the aspiration conduit, nor that the channels are positioned by rotation of the head of the aspiration conduit with respect to the body of the dispenser.

A second difference is in the configuration of the channels, since PACKARD presents six passing holes for each series of channels realized directly in the tube concentric to the aspiration conduit, while the present invention provides notches, afforded on the top surface of the aspiration conduit, which become channels only when the head of the aspiration

conduit draws up the bottom of the expansion chamber. This is clearly of great advantage because it is easier to clean the channels after the use of the dispenser since when the aspiration conduit is removed, the channels are exposed for cleaning.

Thus, the independent claims are believed patentable over PACKARD and their allowance is solicited.

The Official Action indicates that HINZ discloses an adjustable dispenser comprising a body 23, an aspiration conduit 22, a container 11, a head 15, a radially-directed series of channels 19a, an elastic sealing means 21, at least one tooth 15a, and a plate 19.

Note that the independent claims recite an adjustable detergent dispenser for water cleaners having a radially-directed series of channels on a flat upper part of a head of the aspiration conduit, the channels having different heights. There is also recited the aspiration conduit being connected to an expansion chamber of an ejector of the body through a hole and one of the variable-height channels fashioned radially on an upper head of the aspiration conduit. Similar recitations are found in new independent claims 8-9.

The device disclosed by HINZ is a container and a dispenser for soda water which presents, with reference to Figures 1 and 6, a cap 19, octagonal in outline, with slightly inwardly curved sides 19a having the same depth and not different heights as recited in the claims and disclosed as to the present

invention. Moreover, the sides 19a are axially-directed channels and not radially-directed channels as recited. Further, it should be noted that the general outer dimension and contour of cap 19 matches the inner contour of an opening provided in the head of a wrench-like tool W, so that the sides 19a are only for tightening the cap 19 with the wrench tool. A fair reading of the patent will show that the sides 19a do not connect the aspiration conduit to the expansion chamber as recited in the claims.

Accordingly, it is believed clear that this reference is not anticipatory of any of the claims.

The Official Action indicates that GILMOUR discloses an adjustable dispenser comprising a body 3, an aspiration conduit 1, 30, a container 28, a head 1, a radially-directed series of channels 19a, and a tab 17.

The channels of GILMOUR are not positioned as recited by the claims. For example, see that claim 1 recites the radially-directed series of channels being on a flat upper part of a head of the aspiration conduit and having different heights. These channels connect the aspiration conduit to the expansion chamber, to allow withdrawal of the fluid from the detergent container. By contrast, GILMOUR presents a cylindrical, horizontally disposed, elongated valve slide mounted in a transverse of the aspiration conduit. This valve slide is provided with three vertically extending inlet ports, disposed

perpendicularly to the longitudinal axes of the slide, and having different diameters to provide consequently varying capacities. Shifting the slide longitudinally with respect to the aspiration conduit makes possible the alignment of a selected inlet port with the aspiration conduit to allow passage of a determined flow of fluid.

However, there is not disclosed the recited radially-directed series of channels on a flat upper part of a head of the aspiration conduit, the channels having different heights. Accordingly, there is no anticipation.

As none of the anticipation rejections are viable, the independent claims are believed to be patentable and their allowance is solicited.

Further, as to the obviousness of claim 4, applicants respectfully disagree. The Official Action indicates that PACKARD discloses the limitations of the claimed invention with the exception of the bayonet joint, disclosed by MACDONALD. The Official Action indicates that it would be obvious to replace the threads of PACKARD with the bayonet joint of MACDONALD.

However, as pointed out above, PACKARD does not disclose all of the features of the invention. The present invention advances the art in that it makes easier the maintenance and the cleanliness of the channels of the detergent dispenser and the removal of the deposits which inevitably build up in the aspirating conduits due to using detergents. Since

none of the cited documents disclose an adjustable detergent dispenser for water cleaners which comprises at least three elements which can be assembled together, which presents on the flat upper part of the head of the aspiration conduit a radially-directed series of channels having different heights, and which has the aspiration conduit connected to an expansion chamber of an ejector of the body through a hole and one of the variable-height channels, even if these references are combined, the recited invention is not taught or suggested.

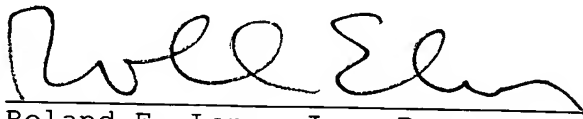
Accordingly, the obviousness rejection is also not believed to be viable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

REL/lrs